

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached drawing sheet containing Figure 8 replaces the original drawing sheet containing Figure 8. The attached replacement sheet includes changes to Figure 8. In Figure 8, the label “PRIOR ART” has been added as suggested by the Examiner.

Attachments:

- Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

By this Amendment, the Abstract is amended, Fig. 8 is amended, claim 1 is amended, claim 2 is canceled, and claim 9 is added. Accordingly, claims 1 and 3-9 are pending in this application. No new matter is presented in this Amendment.

The Office Action objects to Fig. 8 based upon informalities. Fig. 8 is amended to obviate the objection. Specifically, Fig. 8 has been designated by the legend, "Prior Art." Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

The Office Action further objects to the Abstract because of its length. The Abstract is amended to obviate the objection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,435,115 to Yoshikazu et al. ("Yoshikazu"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a sewing machine comprising an embroidery frame unit mounted on a portion of a second carriage furthest from a vertical portion of an arm. Claim 1 further recites wherein the distal ends of the first carriages are configured to extend beyond the distal ends of the first rails by a distance substantially equal to a length of the first carriages. Yoshikazu does not disclose, teach or suggest either of these features.

Yoshikazu only discloses, at column 6, lines 57-59, an embroidery frame attached to a distal end 47a of a carriage 47 by means of an adapter 53. The figures of Yoshikazu, for example Figs. 6 and 8, clearly illustrate the adapter 53 mounted to a lateral side of carriage 44, that is not a side furthest from the vertical position of an arm, as recited in claim 1.

Furthermore, Fig. 6 of Yoshikazu only discloses a distal end 47a of a second carriage extending beyond a lateral side of one of the first rails, that is, a side perpendicular to rails 35 and 35'. Nowhere does Yoshikazu disclose wherein the distal ends of the first carriages are configured to extend beyond the distal ends of the first rails by any length, let alone a distance substantially equal to a length of the first carriages, as recited in claim 1.

Accordingly, because Yoshikazu does not disclose, teach or suggest each and every limitation recited in claim 1, the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) is improper. Applicant respectfully submits, therefore, that independent claim 1 is patentable over Yoshikazu.

Claims 3-6 depend from independent claim 1 and are likewise patentable over Yoshikazu at least for their dependence on an allowable base claim, as well as for additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection over Yoshikazu is respectfully requested.

The Office Action further rejects claims 1-3 and 5-8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,887,536 to Hayashi et al. ("Hayashi"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Regarding independent claim 1, Hayashi only discloses, at column 9, lines 42-53, an apparatus for feeding a work-sheet holder that includes a pair of Y-direction feeding devices 30 and a Y-direction moveable frame 53. Figs. 3, 6 and 7 illustrate wherein rollers 38 and 40 specifically prevent the front side of moveable frame 53 from extending beyond the front of guide member 35, let alone extend beyond the front ends of guide members 35 by a distance substantially equal to the length of the frame 53, as recited in claim 1.

Regarding claim 8, Hayashi only discloses wherein moveable frame 53 is mounted between the pair of Y-direction feeding devices 30. Nowhere does Hayashi disclose, teach or suggest a second rail being longer than the distance between the two first rails, as recited in claim 8. Indeed, because the support frame 2, which houses the sewing heads of Hayashi, is positioned between the pair of Y-direction feeding devices 30, there would be no purpose to configure the second carriage, as recited in claim 8, so as to move laterally beyond either of the first rails.

Accordingly, because Hayashi does not disclose, teach or suggest each and every limitation recited in claims 1 and 8, the rejection of claims 1 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is improper. Applicant respectfully submits, therefore, that independent claims 1 and 8 are patentable over Hayashi. Claims 3 and 5-7 depend from independent claim 1 and are likewise patentable over Hayashi at least for their dependence on an allowable base claim, as well as for additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection over Hayashi is respectfully requested.

Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that new claim 9 is patentable over the art of record.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1 and 3-9 are earnestly solicited.

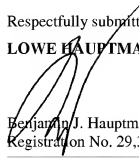
Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the

undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments:

**Replacement Sheet
Petition for Extension of Time**

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Date: October 24, 2006